GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1509
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2016
Sickle Cell Disease
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children are suffering from anemia, Thalassemia, sickle cell anemia disorder and hemophilia in the country; if so, the details thereof and the number of such children in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise along with the survey conducted if any in this regard;

(b) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance for the prevention and elimination of these diseases by launching National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Programme and for setting up pre-natal counselling and early intervention centre to prevent the transfer of genetic diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and expenditure incurred for prevention and control of these diseases during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the other corrective measures taken/ being taken by the Government for tackeling the said diseases across the country particularly in the tribal areas?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a): The number of people suffering from anemia, thalassemia and haemophilia in the country, state/UT wise is not known in a definitive manner, as there is no central database for such conditions. It is roughly estimated that there may be total of about one lakh persons each with sickle cell anemia and with thalassemia and about 65,000 with haemophilia disease.

(b) & (c): Public Health is a state subject. However under National Health Mission, Government of India provides financial support to the States to strengthen their health care systems including system for handling blood disorders (Thalassemia, Haemophilia and Sickle Cell) based on the proposals submitted by the State/UT Governments in their Programme Implementation Plans. Considering the burden and the cost of management and for suitable control measures, a comprehensive guideline for Haemoglobinopathies (thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and other variant anemia) has been prepared by the Government of India and sent to the states to initiate the prevention and management of Haemoglobinopathies in their respective states. This also includes prenatal counseling and setting up of early intervention centres to prevent the transfer of the disease.

The details of the funds allocated to the states during last three years is enclosed at annexure.

(d): The Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakrama (RBSK) recently launched under National Health Mission (NHM), provides early detection and treatment of children suffering from genetic disorders. Operational Guidelines have been issued under this scheme to all the States/UTs for Child Health screening and early intervention services. The diseases like sickle cell anaemia, Beta Thalassemia and other health conditions are covered under child health screening up to the age of 18 years. State Government can submit proposals in this regard in their respective Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) for consideration of assistance under NHM within their resource envelope.

To help in tackling the management of said diseases. National Blood Transfusion Council has issued a directive that blood banks should provide blood/blood components free of cost to the patients of Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Sickle cell anemia and other blood dyscrasia (blood disease) requiring repeated blood transfusion.